

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 4, 8, 10, 13, 16-17, 19 and 21; claims 11 and 20 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-10, 12-19 and 21 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Objections – Specification

The disclosure was objected to because the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS fails to include the description of Figure 8. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful review of the specification. In response, the Applicant has modified the specification as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's consideration of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 4, 8, 13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. The vague and indefinite phrase noted in claims 4 and 16 has been amended to remove the indefiniteness. Claims 8 and 13 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis problem in each claim. The Applicants have corrected the deficiencies in claim 17. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of these claims

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 10, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barany et al, US 6,839,356 (Barany). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 11 and 20 without prejudice and incorporated the allowable limitations of claim 11 and 20 into independent claims 10 and 19. Claim 14 depends from amended claim 10 which now contains the allowable

subject matter of canceled claim 11. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10, 14 and 19.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-9 and 15-18 and notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 11-12 and 20-21. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 10 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

In paragraph 9 on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sidney L. Weatherford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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